



17th May 2011

Cardinal Hume Catholic School

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Many parents will be aware that schools, especially those deemed to be outstanding by Ofsted have been encouraged by the coalition Government to convert to Academy status.

An Academy is a school, funded directly by the Department for Education, not the Local Authority. This initiative should not be confused with the phase one Academy status given to schools at risk of failing. An Academy is run by a Board of Trustees overseeing a Governing Body. Academies are expected to support other lower-performing schools. Further information is available at www.education.gov.uk/academies.

The Governors believe they have a duty to consider the benefits of becoming an Academy in respect of:

- greater freedom for Cardinal Hume Catholic School while still being able to work closely with the Local Authority and our Catholic family of schools
- freedom to follow the curriculum most suited for our children
- the ability to directly control our budget

Staff and Governors are strongly committed to continuing to provide an outstanding education for all students. Should we become an Academy, we would be committed to maintaining our current admissions policy which means that the catchment area and entry criteria would remain the same.

Governors are working closely with Bishop Cunningham (Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle) and are now seeking the views of parents and staff and other interested parties on the prospect of Cardinal Hume Catholic School investigating Academy status.

If you have any comments on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at Cardinal Hume or reply in writing no later than Monday June 6th 2011.

Yours sincerely

Fr A.A. Duffy
Chair of Governors